

viz media

EXCELSAGA

24



story and art by RIKDO KOSHI

EXCELSIOR '24

STORY AND ART BY
RIKDO KOSHI

*People
in
their
happiest
moment.*





EXCEL SAGA 24

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THE NORTH WIND AND THE HEAVY RAIN

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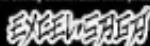
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(EXCEL SAGA BONUS SECTION)

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

EXCEL SAGA is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains faintary violence and mature situations.

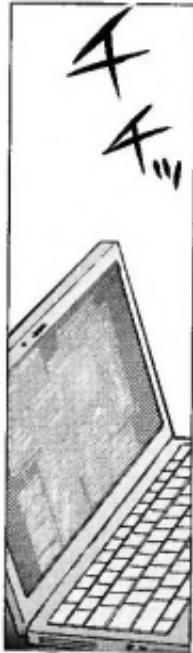
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MISSION 1

LOOSE AND HAPPY







IF THIS IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUE, THERE ARE MEASURES WE COULD TRY... BUT WHAT IF IT'S A MATTER BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING...?



PHYSICALLY, SHE'S JUST FINE.

DOES THIS MEAN HER SITUATION IS DIFFERENT FROM IWATA'S...?



SHE, ER, SEEKS TO HAVE HAD A MINOR ACCIDENT.



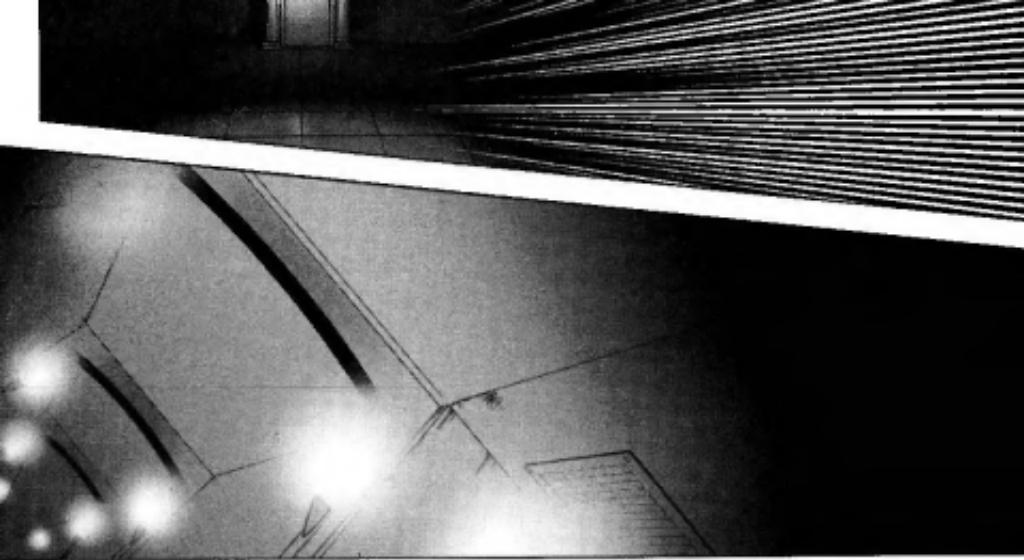
PROFESSOR...? WHAT HAPPENED TO TERIHA...?



YES, PROFESSOR.



I EXPECT IT HAPPENED BECAUSE SHE WAS SUFFERING FROM EXHAUSTION, AND SHE'LL BE ALL BETTER SOON.



...IT'S
JUST
NOT
POSSIBLE!!

A
30
HOUR
WORK-
DAY...

HONESTLY
THAT
SOUNDS
BUSIER.
A NORMAL
PERSON
MUST HAVE
EIGHT HOURS
A DAY FOR
SLEEP, SIX
HOURS FOR
RELAXATION,
MEALS, AND
SNACKS, AND
TEN HOURS FOR
SHOPPING! SHE
CAN'T SURVIVE
OTHERWISE!!

NORMAL
PEOPLE
CAN'T BE
AS BUSY
AS YOU,
SENIOR!

WELL,
PARDON
ME FOR
EXISTING
WITHIN
THE
BOUNDARIES
OF
TIME
AND
SPACE!!

IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE
FOR THE
WEAK, FOR
THE
STRONG,
IT'S A
DOODLE.



JUDGING FROM ALL THE ILL BOXES WE USED TO REINFORCE OUR SHELTER, I KNEW THE FIRM WAS BIG...



YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SHIFT THE PARADIGM FROM CAPITALIST PATRIARCHY TO THE INFORMATICS OF DOMINATION!



"REAL CONVENIENT" ...?

I CAN
QUICKLY
REMEMBER
KANJI I
FORGOT,
AND I
HAVE ONE
MILLION
HORSE-
POWER!

NO
MORE NEED
TO SLEEP...
TO BATH...
TO POOP,
AND THE
EMBARRASSMENT
THAT CAME
WITH THE
FELLET-LIKE
WASTE OF
HABITUAL
MALNUTRITION!

BUT
YOU HAVE
BEEN
WORKING
WITHOUT
A BREAK
HAVEN'T
YOU...?

LORD IL
PALAZZO
IS TAKING
A LEAVE
FROM THE
OFFICE.
I WANT
THINGS
UP TO
DATE BY
THE TIME
HE
RETURNS.

COMB
THAT
POO-FOO
TALK CUT
OF YOUR
CURLS!
RADICAL,
YOU SAY?
WE
ARE THE
REVOLUTION!

SOUNDS
LIKE I'M
BETTER
THAN
EVER,
RIGHT?

























MY
SENIOR
IS
IN
DANGER
!

LORD
IN
PALANNO!

WHO
IS
IN
DANGER

...S-
SENIOR
HYATT
!!



MS.
ELGILIA



...AT
A
TIME
LIKE THIS,
EVEN YOUR
PRESENCE
IS
REASSURING!

ALMOST
FORGOT
ABOUT YOUR
EXIST-
ENCE!
I
MEAN...

WHO
DID
YOU
"blip"
SAY
WAS
IN
"blip"...

THANK
YOU
FOR
ASKING
I'M
ALL
BETTER
I'M
NOT
being
rude to
you, am I...?

WERE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT
AFTER
THAT
INCIDENT?

TO BE
HONEST,
I GUESS
WE'RE
ALL
EQUALLY
EFFED.

WELL...

IN DANGER?

* blip blip *

END MISSION 1



EXCELSIOR

...SO
THAT'S
HOW
IT
WAS.

OH...

DON'T
BLAME
YOU
FOR
BEING
SURPRISED...

...SENIOR
EXCEL
IS IN
TROUBLE

SO
NOW
DO YOU
GET IT?
THAT'S
WHY...

UH...
I THOUGHT
SHE HAD
BEEN ACTING
STRANGE,
SO I'M
NOT
REALLY
THAT
SURPRISED.

...WELL,
IT
MAKES
SENSE
TO ME.

MISSION 2

THE NORTH WIND AND THE HEAVY RAIN



SO,
MS.
ELGALA.
I
UNDER-
STAND
YOU'RE

.COOPERA-
TING
WITH
OUR
ENEMIES?

SHE'S
WORKING
LIKE
CRAZY
ON ILL'S
BUSINESS
OPERATIONS.

OH.

. AND
ANYWAY,
NOW
SHE'S
RUNNING
AROUND
ALL OVER
THE
PLACE.

EVEN
IN THE
OFFICE,
I, ELGALA,
COULDNT
BEGIN TO
KEEP UP
WITH HER,
SO I LEFT
HER
TO IT.

WAS
I NOT
SUPPOSED
TO
HEAR
THAT?..

YES,
YOU
SPOKE
ABOUT
IT IN
DETAIL...

DID
I...
TALK
ABOUT
IT?





...OH, COME ON.

I TOLD YOU THAT I WOULD ONLY HELP YOU ONE TIME.

MIWA... DON'T SAY THAT.

BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH FREE TIME, YOU KNOW?

I HELPED YOU BECAUSE THAT PROJECT SOUNDED INTERESTING.

NO.

...BUT HOW CAN YOU CATCH HER IF SHE'S MISSING?

IF YOU WANT THAT PIECE OF JUNK, I'LL CONSIDER IT...

WELL, CAN YOU AT LEAST LEND US THE DEVICE TO STOP ISSHIKI...?





























REGARDLESS
OF THE
PROCESS,
HOWEVER, IT IS
PROBABLE
THAT HER
REMARKABLE
WILLPOWER
ENCOURAGES
HER TO
ACCEPT
IT.

I FREELY
ADMIT TO
BEING
UNCERTAIN
AS TO HOW
AND WHY,
EXACTLY,
YOUR SENIOR
IS IN HER
PRESENT
DILEMMA.

LET'S
BEGIN
WITH THE
BASIC
"SHAKE"
STRATEGY.

GIVE
HER A
REASON
TO RETURN
WORTHY
OF
HER
STRENGTH.

YOU
MUST
 THEREFORE
ATTEMPT TO
USE HER VERY
WILL AS
LEVERAGE
TO SHAKE
HER
ASSUMPTIONS.

ARE
YOU
WITH
ME?!

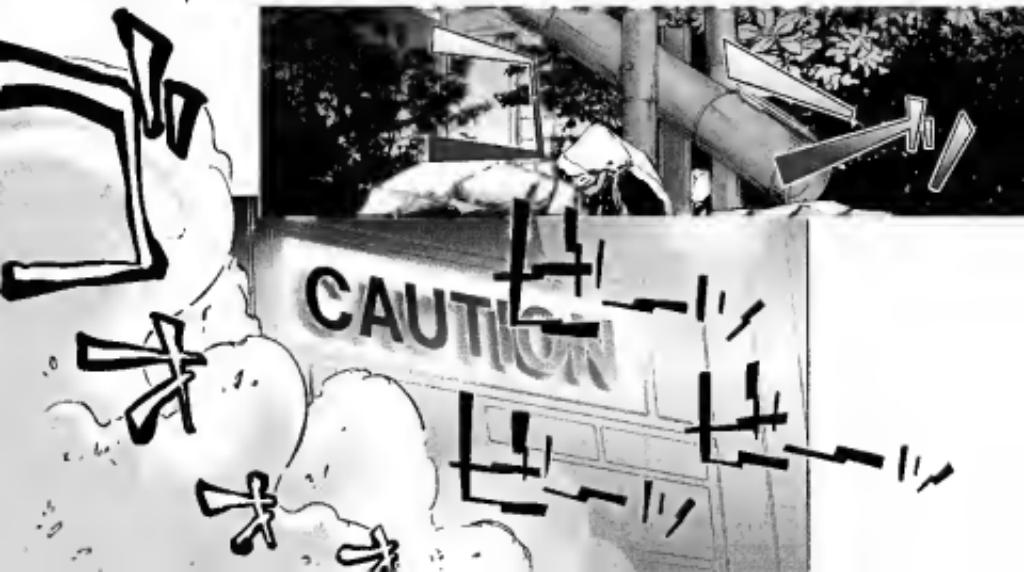
^THERE'S
NOTHING
THAT WILL
SHAKE
HER.

IT'S
NO
USE...

YOU
KNOW
HER
BEST--
I LEAVE
THE
SPECIFICS
TO YOU.

LET'S
BEGIN
WITH THE
FIRST AND
MOST
BASIC STEP.
STOP THE
RECORDER--















SHE'S
GONE...?
DAMAGE
REPORT
!!











EXCELSIOR

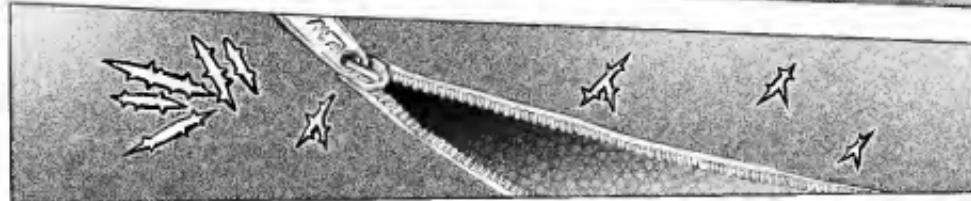
MISSION 3

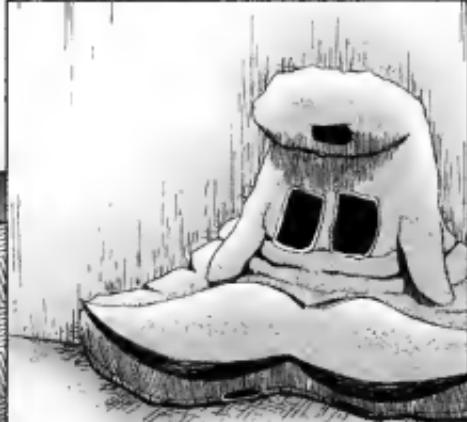
ADVENT OF THE BLUE

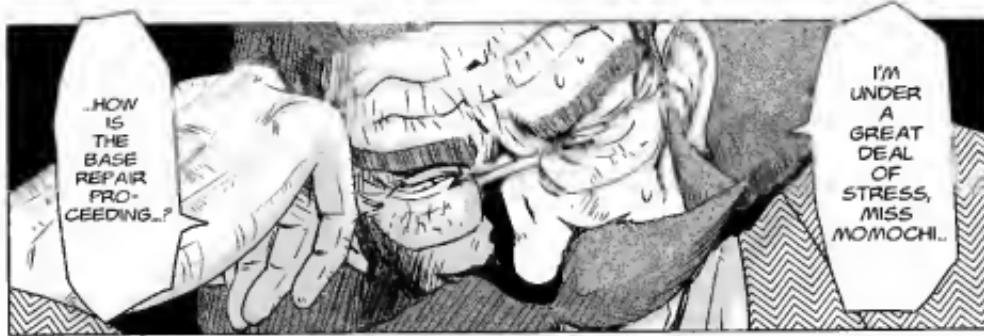
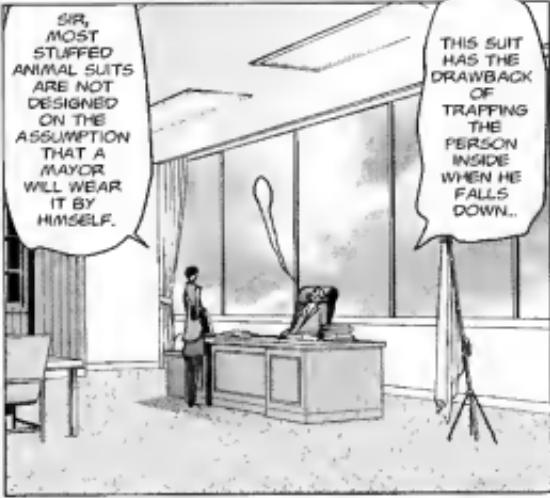




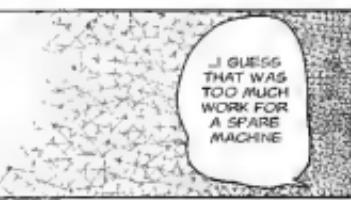
















YOU
KNOW,
ONE
OF THE
GREAT
JOYS OF
BEING
HUMAN IS
IDLENESS.

EH
?

IF YOU
WANT
TO SLEEP,
WHY DON'T
YOU
RETURN
TO YOUR
ORIGINAL
BODY?

I
ALMOST
FELL
ASLEEP!
I actually
slept a
little while
ago.

5,673
SHEEP,
5,674
SHEEP...

BUT
I'LL
BET
YOU
CAN'T
TASTE
IT.
HOW
BORING...

YOU
WANT
TO
EAT
SOMETHING,
DON'T
YOU...?

YOU
ATE
SOMETHING...?

...BUT
I
WANT
TO
SLEEP...

I'M
NOT
SLEEPY...

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HMM.
HOLD
ON A
MINUTE.

HEY,
YOU...

ALL
I CAN
FEEL
IS THE
BODY
TEMPER-
ATURE.

BUT
THIS
ISN'T
SO
FUN...

HEY!
IWATA
!!

HMM..
I SEE.
THAT'S
HOW IT
WORKS.

THIS
BODY
FEELS
A LITTLE
STRANGE...

IT FEELS
A LITTLE UNCOM-
FORTABLE.
LET ME
MAKE
SOME
ADJUSTMENTS...

EH?









WE JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN, YOU KNOW...

CHECK TO SEE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN OPERATE IT.

YOU HAVE REPORTED THAT THERE IS A MAINTENANCE FACILITY IN YOUR BASE.

HERE IS YOUR NEXT INSTRUCTION.

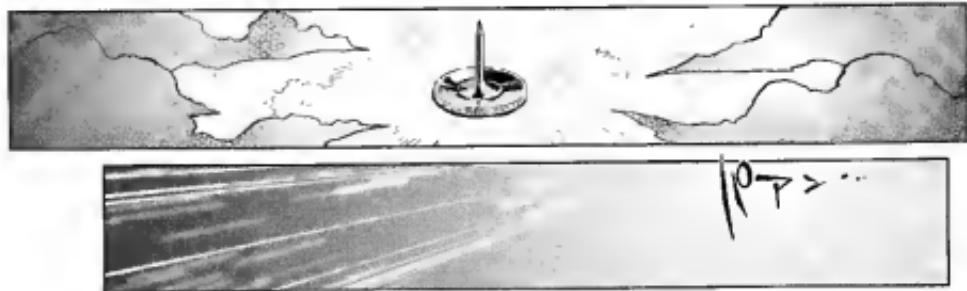
WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER MOST OF THE ROOMS...

...HE TOLD ME TO CHECK THE FACILITY, BUT LORD IL PALAZZO ONLY TOOK ME THERE WHEN SENIOR HYATT GOT ALL...

MAIN-
TENANCE
FACILITY...

STOP THE RE-
CORDER NOW--





I HAVE
A FAVOR
TO ASK OF
YOU...

I
DIDN'T
HAVE
AS
MUCH
TIME
AS I
THOUGHT!

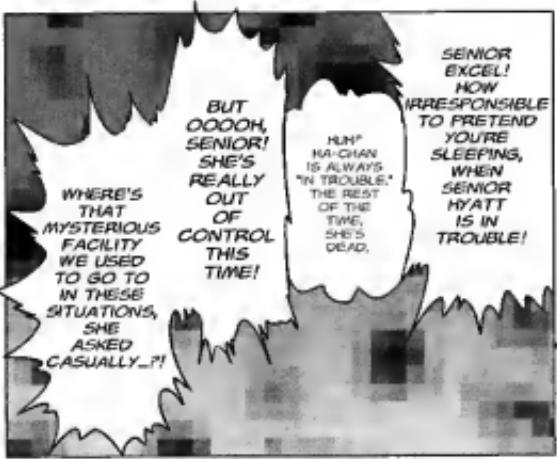
UH...

...ANOTHER
"CORE"
IS...

...IT'S
ABOUT THE
STUFF YOU
GUYS CALL
THE
"CORE."

...SENIOR
!

HEY,
SENIOR
...















EXCELSIOR



AND THAT WOMAN'S
ALREADY STARTED
DRINKING
BY HER-
SELF! 119

It's
ready
now.

WAS
THERE
ANYTHING
WE
NEEDED
TO RAISE
A
TOAST
TO...?

OKAY!

MISSION 4 A WRINKLED ANGEL





...WHAT'S
THIS?



...IWATA'S CONDITION WAS CAUSED BY THE SPECIFICATIONS, NOT BECAUSE HE BROKE DOWN

TELL ME. SIMPLY IS HE BETTER NOW?



...HOW IS HE?



FIRST, I WANT TO ASK...

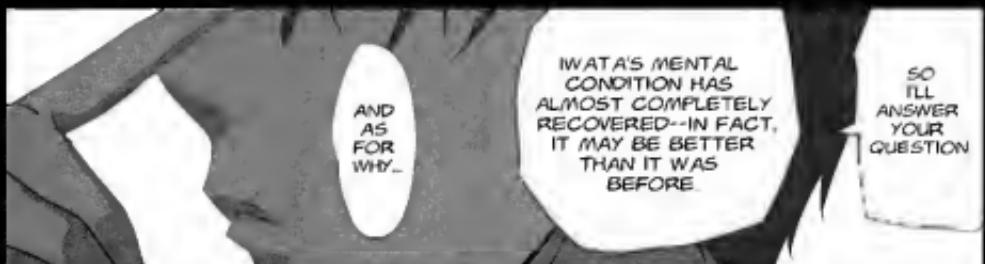


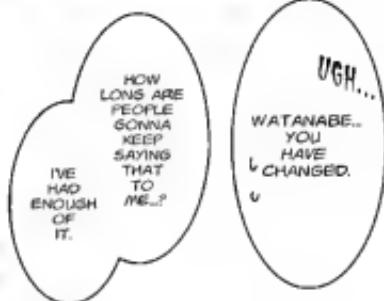
WHAT HAPPENED...?





I'M
SURE...





UGH...

Divv'n't
put th'
noodles
in yet.

Aw,
c'mon.



I ADMIT THAT YOUR CREATION, NISHIKI, IS INCREDIBLE.

THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU BEFORE...BUT THE CORE WAS ORIGINALLY BROUGHT TO MY FATHER BY DR. KABAPU.

I'M MORE CURIOUS ABOUT THE CORE'S ORIGINS.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO EXPLAIN THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS.

EH?

WAS THERE ONLY ONE?

IS THERE ONLY ONE CORE...?



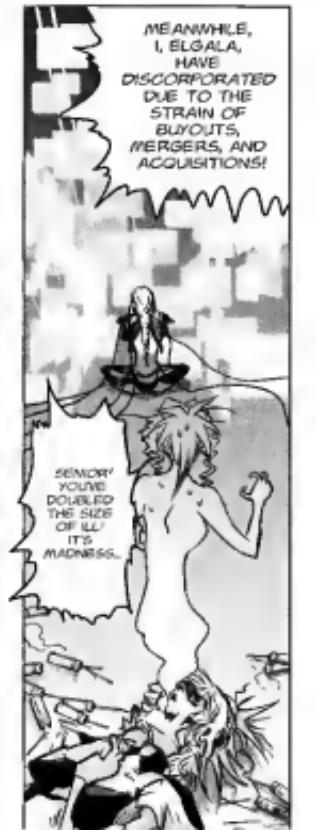


IS
THERE
NO LIMIT
TO YOUR
LUST FOR
CORPORATE
EXPANSION...?

YOU'RE
MAD!
MAD,
I TELL
YOU!



MEANWHILE,
I, ELGALA,
HAVE
DISCORPORATED
DUE TO THE
STRAIN OF
BUYOUTS,
MERGERS, AND
ACQUISITIONS!



I, ELGALA, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN AWE... OF SENIOR EXCEL'S ABILITY TO SAY THE MOST TERRIBLE THINGS AS IF THEY WERE WORDS OF WISDOM...!

BELIEVE IN ME, WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN YOU!!

DON'T BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!

DON'T HAVE TIME...
I PROBABLY DON'T.

OKAY—
TEN MINUTE
BREAK!

I'M GONNA REPORT THIS TO THE LABOR STANDARDS INSPECTION OFFICE!



FIRST,
TAKE
A DEEP
BREATH
AND
CALM
DOWN.

THEN,
THOROUGHLY
RELAX
YOURSELF
BY
TAKING A
BATH AND
HAVING
A LIGHT,
TASTY
MEAL.

THEN,
SPEND
TWO TO
THREE
HOURS
ENJOYING
PASSIVE
ENTERTAINMENT
SUCH AS
LISTENING TO
MUSIC, AND
THEN GET A
GOOD NIGHT'S
REST.















DON'T
PLAY
DUMB
WITH
ME!!

ANYWAY,
WHAT
DO YOU



...WHY
ARE YOU
LOOKING
AT ME
LIKE
THAT,
MISS
MOMOCHI?

HOLD
ON, HOW
DID SHE
KNOW TO
ATTACK
THE
MAYOR'S
OFFICE...

Err.
Dokdo...
what
did ye
do...?

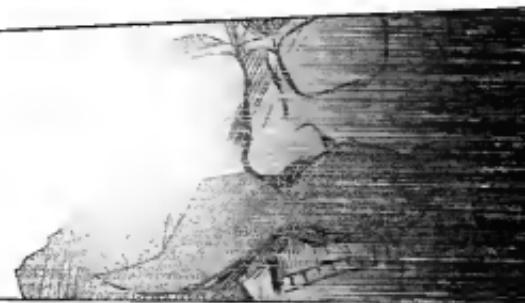
I'M
GOING
DESTROY
YOUR
FACILITY
IN
RETURN!!

YOU
DARED
WASTE
MY
PRECIOUS
TIME...

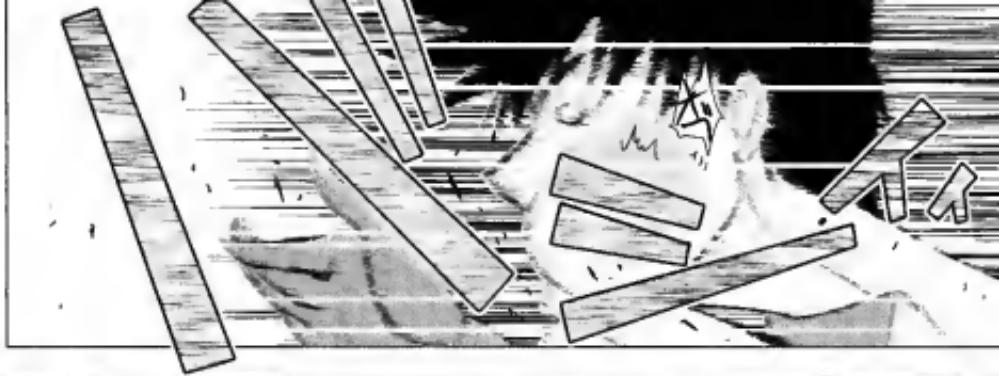


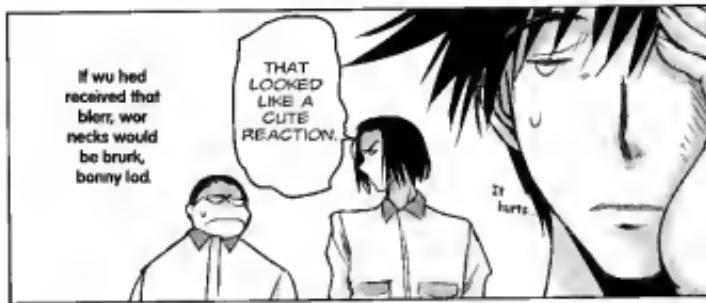












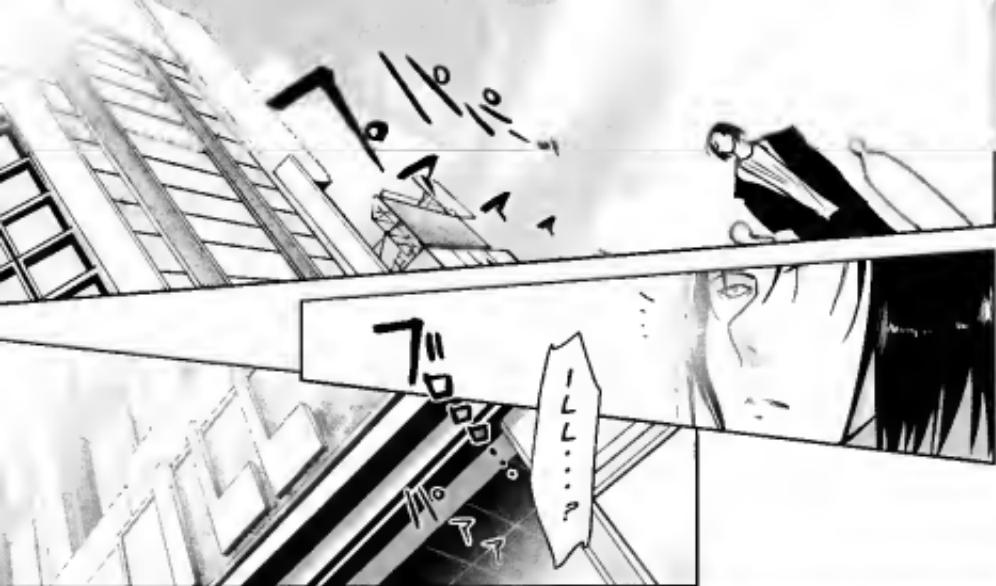




EXCELSIOR







MISSION 5

THE SNEERING DOCTOR







SHOULD
I GO
TALK
DIRECTLY
TO HER...?

WHAT
DO I
REALLY
WANT
TO
DO...?





WATANABE...!



...THERE
!!



Please
come
again!

WHERE'D
SHE...



SHUT
UP
!!

Porvorsion
haants
seven
generations
ye
knaa.

UM...

I
THOUGHT
YOU
WERE
CURED,
DUDE!

THE TRIUMVIRATE
IN WATANABE'S BRAIN

IF I
LOSE
SIGHT OF
HER, WHO
KNOWS
WHEN I'LL
SEE HER
AGAIN...!

I JUST
DON'T
KNOW
HOW TO
TALK TO
HER!

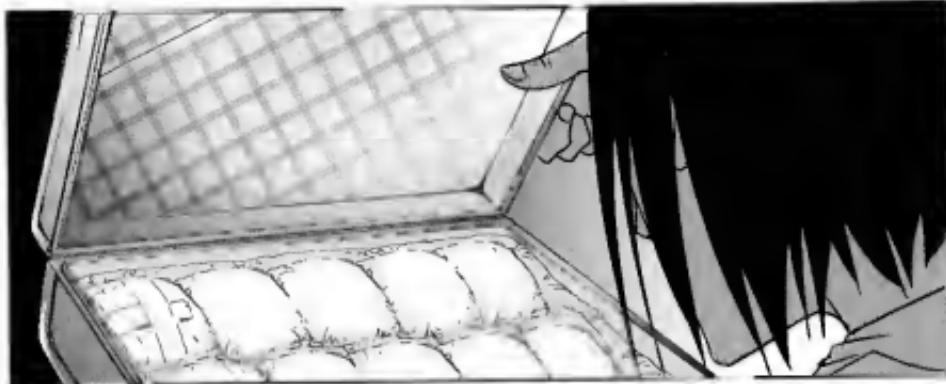
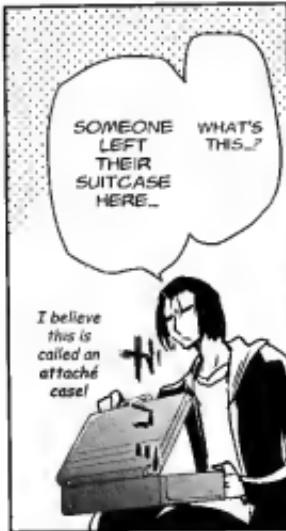
I'M
NOT
STALKING
HER!

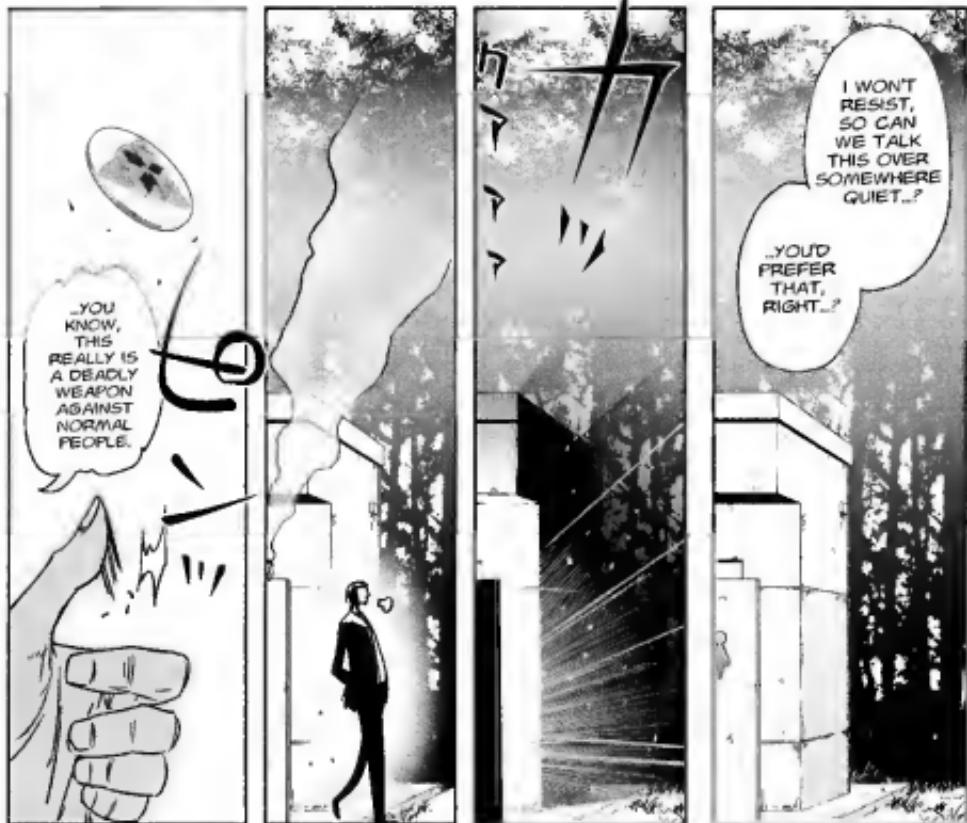
Erm, why
are ye givin'
excuses t' th'
voices in ya
head...?

アーマー

















DAMMIT!
THE
FIRE
ENGINE'S
STILL
THREE
MINUTES
AWAY...!

DON'T
LET
HER GO
BACK
IN
THERE...
IT'S
TOO
LATE!

MY
CHILD
IS
STILL IN
THE
HOUSE!

TAKE-
CHAN!
TAKE-
CHAN!



THE
BUILDING
HAS
JUST
COLLAPSED
BEHIND
HIM.

LEAVE
IT TO
THE
FIRE-
FIGHTERS!
THAT'S
THEIR
JOB...

HMF!
HE SEEMS
TO HAVE
DEVELOPED
QUITE THE
HERO
COMPLEX...

YES,
DOCTOR...

ADD
THE
BILL
TO HIS
DEBT!

MISS
MOMOCHI!

YES
?

...BUT
ALL
THINGS
CONSIDERED,
I GUESS I
WAS LUCKY
TODAY...BECAUSE
AT LEAST
I GOT TO
SEE MISS
AYASUGI.

...BUT
WHAT
WAS I
SUPPOSED
TO DO...

I'VE
JUST
BEEN
RUNNING
INTO SO
MUCH BAD
LUCK
TODAY...

I
LOST
HER
AGAIN...



ZERO PREPARATION









I'M
SORRY...



I PLEDGED
MY
LOYALTY
TO
LORD
IL
PALAZZO.

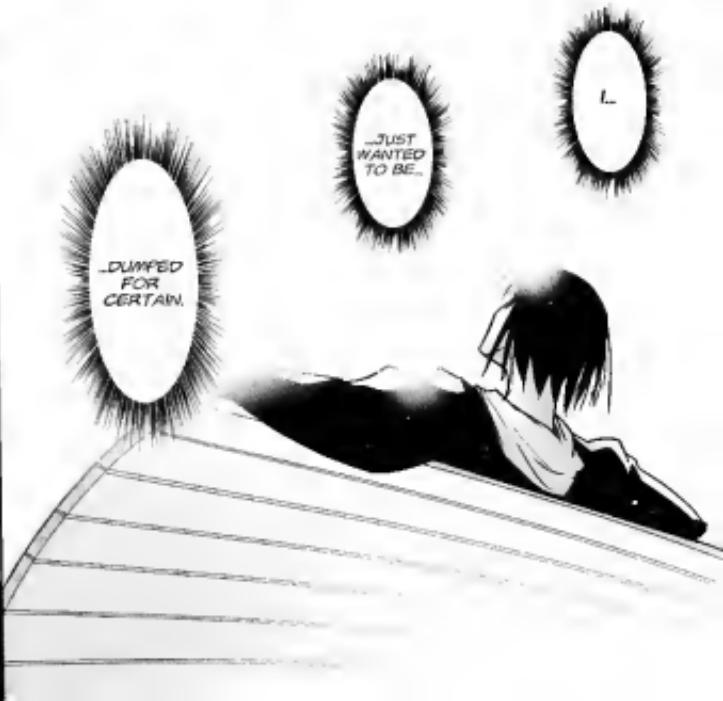


AND
YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO FEEL
AWKWARD.

I GUESS
I DO
UNDERSTAND..
SO YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
SAY ANY
MORE.

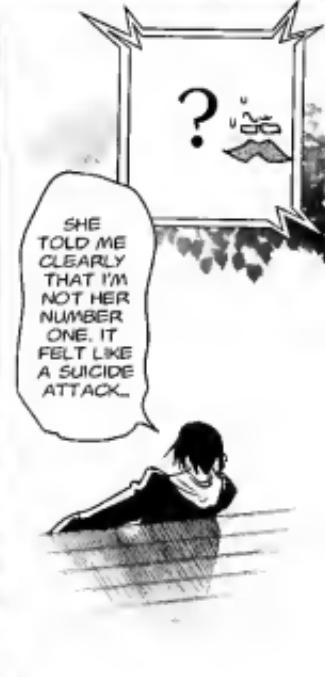


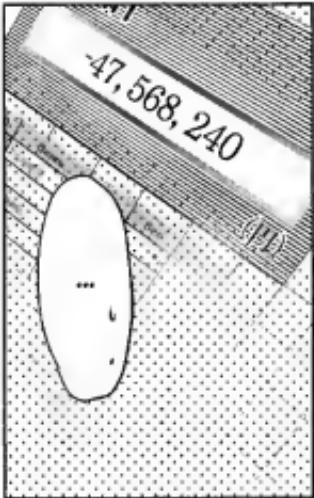
...I'M
GLAD
WE
TALKED
TODAY.





HELLO
?











...
I
AM
IN
A
NICE
MOOD
TODAY.







END MISSION 5



EXCELSAGA





MISSION 6

SHADOWS OF BLUE AND SCARLET

SHOUJI.

...DID
YOU...

...DO
SOME-
THING?

...WITH SUCH PERFECT TIMING AS THOUGH IT WERE SPECIFIED BY AN ELIMINATION METHOD...

I DONT KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, MY DEAR MATSUYA, SO ALLOW ME TO STATE WHAT I THINK IS TRUE.

TRUE, IT ISN'T LIKE YOU...

WELL, I CERTAINLY DID NOTHING TO DESERVE SUCH A SCARY LOOK.

THAT IF THINGS REMAIN AS THEY ARE NOW... NOTHING WILL BE SOLVED?

DON'T YOU THINK...

1 SAID--
THIS PATTERN IS GOOD FOR IWATA, TOO, YOU KNOW?

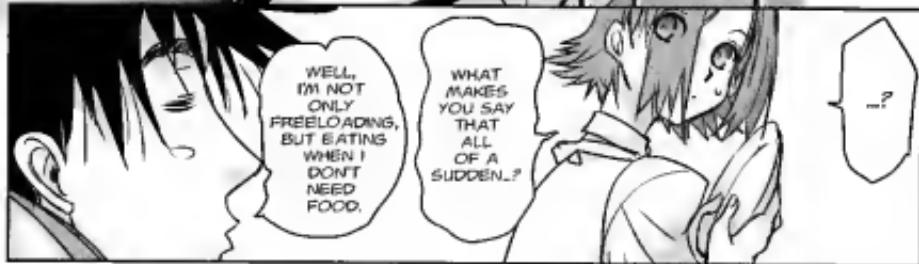
WHY DO YOU DO THINGS TO PROVOKE THE DOCTOR?

DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

I DONT THINK THAT IWATA'S CURRENT CONDITION IS PERMANENT













I THINK THERE WERE A TOTAL OF THREE REASONS.

AND JUST FOR THAT ONE REASON, I WAS TREATED DIFFERENTLY AT SCHOOL.

MY MOTHER USED TO HIT ME EVERY TIME SHE SAW MY REPORT CARD.

I WAS ONCE CALLED A CHILD PRODIGY...

THIS HOUSE IS FULL OF SF STUFF...

ALL I CAN DO IS HELP WITH THE HOUSEWORK
And that's fine.

I WISH I HAD THE INTELLECT TO TRULY ASSIST HIS RESEARCH.
BUT COMPARED TO HIM, I'M AN IDIOT.

BUT THROUGH THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PROFESSOR'S PARENTS AND MINE, I WAS INTRODUCED TO HIS FAMILY. I USED TO THINK I WAS SO SMART...

...BUT I'VE SEEN THINGS HERE THAT WERE BEYOND MY IMAGINATION.

S
G
F
T
E
H











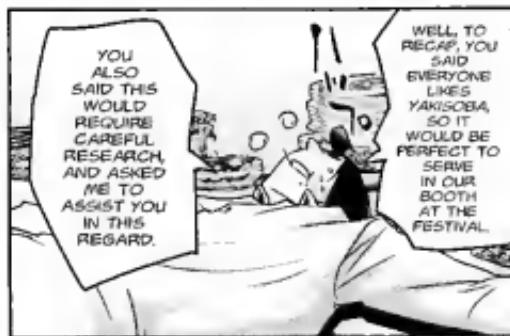
†††



A First-Time Achievement
in the Life of Norikuni Iwata



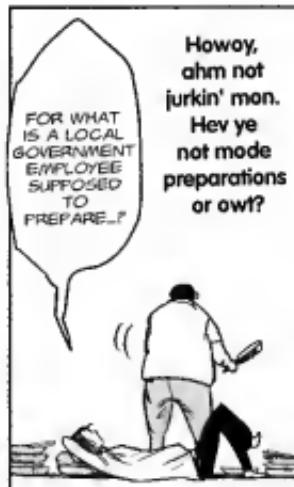




This iz
not th'
propaa
time for
this an'
aai!

WHAT
ELSE
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO
DO...?

Nae.









...THIS
BODY
IS NOT
AS
STRONG
AS I
THOUGHT.

IT'S A
SHAME
THAT
HE
DEFEATED
ME...

HOW
DID I
EVEN
GET
THIS
BODY?

WHAT'S
THE
POINT OF
HAVING
IT
ANYWAY,
THEN...?

AM
I
GOING
BACK...?

...AGHH
!!

...NOT
YET
!!

N-NOT
YET...



SHE
HAS
GUTS...

I HAVE
TO HELP
LORD IL
PALAZZO...







I WAS
BATTLED
THE
WORLD'S
STRONGEST
STREET
FIGHTERS
ALL NIGHT
LONG AND
AM UTTERLY
EXHAUSTED.

I HAVE
HEARTBURN
AND I
FEEL LIKE
THROWING
UP.

Ah hev
indigestion
an' a geet big
hangawah.



I'M
GLAD
TO SEE
YOU'RE
ALL
WELL.

HMM
!!





IT'S TIME
FOR ME TO
TELL YOU
YOUR NEXT
MISSION...

END MISSION 6



About that next mission!

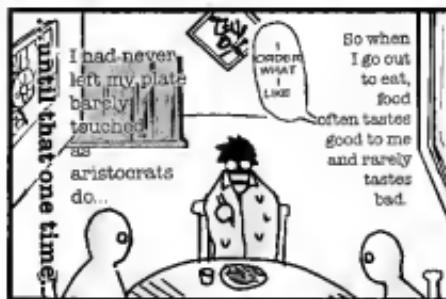
With Iwata recovered...

**...the four head for the
underground empire
once again...along
with a fifth person!**

**And Omi
follows them...
together with...**

**Jam-packed with
unpredictable
surprises!
Dare you miss...
Excel Saga Vol. 25?!**

Magical Insect! ☆ Pinch-chan!

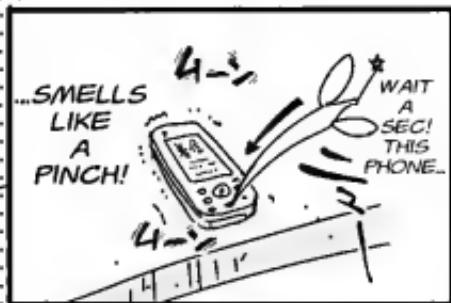


ANSWER...



THE
END

Goodbye, pinch-cha!



EXCEL SAGA

XXIV

Excel Saga 24

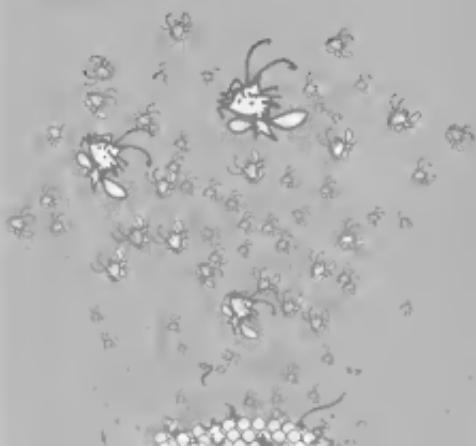
ORIGINAL JAPANESE PRODUCTION STAFF

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PICTORIAL ASSISTANCE
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SHOHEI UEDA
UNAMU KIHAYASHIDA

EDITOR
YOSHIYUKI FUDETANI

(In Japanese alphabetical order. Honorary titles are omitted.)



Guide to *Excel Saga* 24's Sound Effects!

12.1	—FX TADA [man: feeling strong]
12.3	—FX PLUCK [buchihi: pulling the cords]
13.5	—FX BLECH [ger: feeling disgusting]
16.2	—FX HONK [puuuu: car honking]
16.2	—FX HONK [puuuu: car honking]
16.2	—FX VRROUUM [buuuu: engine sound]
16.3	—FX MUUMBLE [buuuu: burp mumble]
16.5	—FX DASH [de: dashing]
16.5	—FX SQUEAK [jaku: suddenly stopping/sudden breaking]
17.3	—FX JOLT [deku: being startled]
17.3	—FX CHAK [chi: opening the cell phone]
17.4	—FX FUMBLE [goso goso: fumbling]
17.4	—FX BLIP [pe: blip]
18.1	—FX BLIP [pe: blip]
18.2	—FX CLOMP [za: footsteps]
19.4	—FX CREAK [gominirin: the sign being bent]
19.4	—FX CREAK [min: the sign being bent]
19.2	—FX PAINT PAINT [baa baa: painting]
19.2	—FX WHEEZE [baa zee: wheezing]
19.3	—FX CLOP CLOP [ka ka: footsteps]
19.3	—FX WHEEZE [zaa zee: wheezing]
19.3	—FX WOBBLE [yote yote: wobbling]
19.4	—FX WHEEZE [zeeee: wheezing]
19.4	—FX WOBBLE [yeeyo yo: wobbling]
20.2	—FX CLICK CLICK [koko: typing]
20.2	—FX CLICK [ka: typing]
20.4	—FX CLICK CLICK [kakaku: typing]
21.2	—FX TUTTER [fuu fuuu: tittering]
21.2	—FX WHACK [go: hitting himself against the wall]
21.3	—FX THUD [deku: falling down]
21.3	—FX TUTTER [fuu fuuu: tittering]
21.6	—FX THROB THROB [doki doki: heart throbbing]
21.6	—FX CLICK [kuchi: clicking]
22.2	—FX JOLT [deku: being startled]
22.2	—FX CLICK [kuchi: clicking]
22.4	—FX CLICK [kuchi: clicking]
22.5	—FX TWITCH [ira: being frustrated]
22.5	—FX CLICK [uchi: pressing hard]
23.1	—FX GASP [ha: gasping]
23.1	—FX STICKY [deku naku: being sticky]
23.3	—FX DASH [de: dashing]
23.5	—FX DASH [de: dashing]
25.1	—FX WEEP [gas: weeping]
25.2	—FX SOB [te: sobbing]
25.3	—FX JOLT [deku: being startled]
25.4	—FX CLOP [ku: footprint]
26.1	—FX GRAB [hishu: grabbing]
26.2	—FX SNAKE [huru furu: shaking]
26.3	—FX SPLASH [gokoboku: blood splashing]
26.4	—FX GULP GULP [rika rika rika: drinking]
27.1	—FX GULP GULP [rika rika rika: drinking]
30.1	—FX COUGH [deku: coughing]
31.2	—FX PUFF [buuu: letting out a breath]
32.1	—FX WIGGLE [goso: wiggling]

Most of Rikdo Koshi's original sound FX are left in their original Japanese in the VIZ Media edition of *Excel Saga*, exceptions being handwritten dialogue and "drawn" notes that have the character of captions. Although these sounds are all listed as "FX," they are of two types: onomatopoeia (in Japanese, *giseigo*) where the writing is used in an attempt to imitate the actual sound of something happening, and mimesis (in Japanese, *gitaigo*) where the writing is used to attempt to convey rhetorically a state, mood, or condition. Whereas the first type of FX will invariably be portrayed with kana, the second may use kana and/or kanji. One should note that there is often overlap between these two types. As always, the numbers are given in the original Japanese reading order, right-to-left.

I know we exist in a wondrous age
of iPads now, but if you're seized by
a sudden steampunk desire to despatch a
missive via post, endorse your
communication thusly:

Oubliette c/o Excel Saga

VIZ Media, LLC

P.O. Box 77010

San Francisco, CA 94107

5.2	—FX SPLASH [zabe: water splashing]
5.2	—FX TWIST [kyuu: twisting a wet towel]
21	—FX KNOCK KNOCK [kon kon: knocking]
12	—FX CHAK [chi: the door opening]
13	—FX TICK [chikkie: computer operating]
24	—FX TICK TICK [chikkie chikkie: the computer operating]
14	—FX ZZZ [suuu suuu: sleeping]
15	—FX CLICK CLICK [koko koko: typing]
15	—FX TICK TICK [chikkie chikkie: the computer operating]
10.2	—FX PUSH [gabie: putting up]
11.1	—FX BLIP [pipe: blip blip sound]
11.2	—FX LICK [pe: licking]
11.2	—FX DAZE [deku: exhausted]
11.4	—FX TICK TICK [chi chikkie: machines operating]

50.2	—FX RING [uninvis: a phone ringing]	32.1	—FX BEEP [pike: beeping]
50.3	—FX SPLASH [baa: splashing]	32.2	—FX SHFF [noso nose: getting out of bed]
50.4	—FX CLACK [kor: shishidashi clicking]	32.3	—FX SQUEEZE [gyuu: squashing]
50.5	—FX BEEP [baa baa baa: beeping]	32.5	—FX STRETCH [on: stretching]
50.5	—FX RUMBLE [geeo: rumbling]	34.1	—FX SNAP [picks the line being cut off]
51.1	—FX BEEP [baa baa baa: beeping]	34.2	—FX THUD [ta: sitting down]
51.2	—FX RUMBLE [boronera: rumbling]	34.3	—FX SHF [se: moving hand quietly]
51.3	—FX BEEP [baa baa baa: beeping]	35.2	—FX SALUTE [caso: saluting]
51.4	—FX BAM [eon: impact sound]	35.3	—FX RUMBLE [boronera: rumbling]
51.5	—FX KABOOM [pokkokeru: impact sound]	35.4	—FX SQUEEZE [gyuum: squeezing]
51.6	—FX BANG [dagaku: sheeting sound]	36.5	—FX HHAH [soyiso: calling out encouragement]
51.6	—FX KABOOM [doon: impact sound]	36.5	—FX THUMP [dokute heart beating]
51.8	—FX BANG [babamu: doyuru: sheeting sound]	36.5	—FX THUMP [dokute heart beating]
52.1	—FX KABOOM [dogasuu: blast]	36.6	—FX THUMP [dokute heart beating]
52.2	—FX CRACK [baiki: cracking]	36.7	—FX THUMP [dokute heart beating]
52.2	—FX HAHA-HAH-HAH [wahahaha: laughing]	36.8	—FX WHEP [su: wiping]
52.2	—FX RUMBLE [geeo: rumbling]	38.4	—FX WOOSH [shu: the automatic door opening]
53.1	—FX RUMBLE [geeo: rumbling]	39.4	—FX MUMBLE [butsu: butsue: mumbling]
53.1	—FX BAM [eon: impact sound]	39.6	—FX SWISH SWISH [watu: wetsu: water: moving her hands quickly]
53.2	—FX BAM [eon: impact sound]	40.5	—FX CLICK [kachi: clicking]
53.2	—FX TUM TUM [chero chro: music from the video game]	41.1	—FX STAGGER [huru fure: staggering]
53.3	—FX RUMBLE [hoboku: rumbling]	41.2	—FX PHEW [heu: sighing]
54.4	—FX RING RING [toronuru: a cell phone ringing]	41.2	—FX RING RING [toronuru: a cell phone ringing]
54.4	—FX BUP [pi: bup]	41.3	—FX BUP [pi: bup]
54.6	—FX RUMBLE [geeo: rumbling]	41.6	—FX BAM [baan: door opening]
58.3	—FX PUMP [boku: holding up fist]	41.7	—FX RUMBLE [je go ga: rumbling]
58.6	—FX BUP [pi: bup]	42.1	—FX DUB-A-DUB [donkata donkata: drum sound]
57.1	—FX TICK [click: the computer operating]	42.1	—FX SIZZLE [juu juu: sizzling]
57.1	—FX TICK [click: the computer operating]	42.1	—FX DUB-A-DUB [don don don: drum sound]
57.6	—FX TWITCH [juu: switching]	42.1	—FX DUB-A-DUB [johoku joh joh: sizzling]
57.7	—FX SHF [gyuu: touching the screen]	42.3	—FX DUB-A-DUB [doko deko: drum sound]
56.1	—FX TICK [click: the computer operating]	42.3	—FX DUB-A-DUB [den den: drum sound]
58.2	—FX HMMMM... [kyuu: being confused]	42.3	—FX DUB-A-DUB [jokoboku den: drum sound]
56.2	—FX BUP [pi: bup]	43.1	—FX DUB-A-DUB [jike: den: drum sound]
56.3	—FX WHIRR [gyuu: accelerating]	43.2	—FX DUB-A-DUB [den den: dekidekideko: drum sound]
58.5	—FX PANG PANG [cre cre: being damaged]	43.3	—FX DUB-A-DUB [jike: doke: daiko: drum sound]
59.1	—FX THRILLED [waku: waku: feeling thrilled]	43.4	—FX BAM [den: drum/impact sound]
59.1	—FX UNZIP [jii: unzipping]	44.2	—FX MUNCH [maju: mazu: munching]
62.4	—FX CLICK [jaka: clicking]	44.2	—FX BUMBLE [do do do do: rumbling]
63.4	—FX BEEP [chi: beeping]	44.3	—FX GULP [goku: gulping]
63.4	—FX CLANG [paku: the gate opening]	44.4	—FX GLARE [ki: glaring]
64.3	—FX WINGOLE [ita ita: wiggling]	44.4	—FX RING RING [toronuru: a cell phone ringing]
64.4	—FX UNZIP [jii: unzipping]	44.4	—FX GULP [gaku: swallowing]
65.3	—FX CLAP CLAP [paku paku paku: clapping]	44.6	—FX CLANK [kakuen: clink]
65.3	—FX STAGGER [yare: staggering]	45.1	—FX KLANK [kakuen: clink]
66.2	—FX PHEW [heu: sighing]	45.2	—FX FLOAT [tepus: floating]
66.5	—FX UGH [ue: groaning]	46.1	—FX BAM [baa: impact sound]
67.5	—FX HEH [te: cynical smile]	47.2	—FX SHIVER [takis: feeling a chill]
67.5	—FX MMW [muu: groaning]	47.5	—FX MUMBLE [butsu: mumbling]
68.1	—FX PUFF [pushusu: air coming out]	47.5	—FX MUMBLE [butsu: mumbling]
68.2	—FX CLICK [jaka: typing]	48.4	—FX GLARE [ki: glaring]
68.5	—FX TMP TMP [auto: auto: walking fast]	48.1	—FX THUMP [dok: heart beating]
69.1	—FX TMP TMP [peto peto: footsteps]	48.4	—FX GLARE [ki: glaring]
70.3	—FX BAM [baa: banging]	49.5	—FX CLAP CLAP [ka ka ka: footsteps]
70.3	—FX WAKE [gaku: getting up]	50.1	—FX CLACK [kakuen: shishidashi: a garden aromatic made of bamboo, clicking]
70.4	—FX WHIRR [kyuu: screen appearing]	50.2	—FX HAHA-HAH-HAH [wahahaha: laughing]
71.1	—FX THUD [goton: lying down]		
71.3	—FX NUMBLE [butsu butsu butsue: rumbling]		

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117.2	—FX SCRATCH [per: scratching]	97.3	—FX SIGH [basic sighing]
117.3	—FX CLANG [garage: debris falling]	98.1	—FX SHF [he: adjusting the glasses]
117.3	—FX CRASH [garage: glass crashing]	98.2	—FX THUMP [dokan: heart beating]
118.1	—FX THUD [dokan: falling down]	99.1	—FX HEAP [dokan: keeping a bowl]
118.1	—FX BAM [per: impact sound]	99.2	—FX MUNCH [moku moku: munching]
118.2	—FX RUMBLE [garage: debris falling]	99.2	—FX FUMP [za: sitting down]
118.3	—FX SWAY [yuan: swaying]	99.3	—FX COUGH [jeho: coughing]
118.4	—FX WHOOSH [shuuuu: whooshing sound]	99.4	—FX COUGH [jeho: keho: coughing]
118.5	—FX WHOOSH [zaa: raising a hand]	100.1	—FX MUNCH [moku moku: munching]
119.1	—FX GRAB [gash: grabbing]	101.4	—FX CLANG [gata: chair rattling]
119.1	—FX FWP [kyuu: moving fast]	103.1	—FX GLARE [ki: glare]
119.2	—FX WHISPER [hoho: whispering]	103.4	—FX WOBBLE [yuuuu: wobbling]
119.2	—FX WHISPER [hoho: whispering]	103.4	—FX GRAB [za: grabbing]
119.2	—FX SIGH [hoo: sighing]	104.1	—FX BAM [jeho: impact sound]
120.1	—FX SLAP [basic: slapping]	104.1	—FX GACK [jeho: discomfort feeling]
120.1	—FXUGH [hohu: grunting]	104.2	—FX GASH [hah: destiny]
120.2	—FX THUP [za: a footstep]	104.2	—FX WEEP [wuuuu: weeping]
120.2	—FX DUCH [huhu: swoosh]	104.2	—FX DRAG [zuu: zuu: dragging]
120.3	—FX SQUEEZE [gyuu: squeezing]	104.4	—FX CLOMP [hoh: footstep]
120.4	—FX BAM [doh: impact sound]	105.4	—FX WHEEZE [zeu: zeu: wheezing]
120.5	—FX JUMP [teuuu: jumping]	105.6	—FX FLASH [teku: flitting]
121.2	—FX CLANG [kaan: debris falling]	107.1	—FX SHINY [buuu: shiny skin]
121.2	—FX HOWL [hyuuu: a wind howling]	107.2	—FX CLANG [ki: clang]
121.2	—FX HOWL [uuu: a wind howling]	107.2	—FX BAM [jeho: hitting sound]
121.4	—FX WHISPER [hoho: hoho: whispering]	108.3	—FX WHEEZE [zeu: zeu: wheezing]
121.5	—FX POINT [jishu: pointing]	108.3	—FX WHOOSH [shuuuu: whooshing sound]
122.1	—FX EHT [ee: elevation]	109.2	—FX WHACK [jeho: impact sound]
122.2	—FX CLOMP CLOMP [hoku hoku: walking fast]	109.5	—FX HOWL [hyuuuuuu: a window howling]
122.3	—FX TAP [zaan: tapping]	110.1	—FX HONK [juuuuu: car honking]
122.4	—FX GRIN [hoku: grinning]	110.2	—FX RUSTLE [goku: paper rustling]
123.1	—FX DOOM DOOM [dohu dohu: heavy footsteps]	110.4	—FX COUGH [jeho: coughing]
123.1	—FX TWITCH [muuu: muuu: being irritated]	111.1	—FX TWICH [joku: twitching]
125.1	—FX HONK [juuuuu: car honking]	111.4	—FX TUG [za: putting pressure on]
125.3	—FX CLANK [gash: chair rattling]	111.4	—FX GRAB [joku: grabbing]
125.6	—FX HONK [juuuuu: car honking]	111.6	—FX CRASH [baruu: window crashing]
126.6	—FX HONK [juuuuu: car honking]	112.1	—FX ROAR [go: roaring]
127.1	—FX HONK [juuuuu: car honking]	112.1	—FX CRASH [jaku: glass smashing]
127.1	—FX HONK [juuuuu: car honking]	113.1	—FX CRACK [meruu: the wall cracking]
127.2	—FX VROOM [bunbunero: engine sound]	113.2	—FX CRACK [meruu: the wall cracking]
127.3	—FX HONK [juuuuu: car honking]	113.2	—FX PARTER [bura bura: debris falling]
127.5	—FX SIGH [hoo: sighing]	113.2	—FX CRACK [meruu: the wall cracking]
127.6	—FX GASP [ha: gasping]	114.1	—FX CLOMP [dohuu: heavy footstep]
127.7	—FX CLIP [za: a footstep]	114.1	—FX CRASH [baruu: glass crashing]
128.4	—FX MURMUR [zawa zawa: people murmuring]	114.1	—FX DASH [ba: dashing]
129.4	—FX HONK [juuuuu: car honking]	114.3	—FX WHACK [jeho: impact sound]
128.4	—FX HONK [juuuuu: car honking]	114.3	—FX WHAM [dohuu: impact sound]
128.5	—FX CLATTER [kaach: cup clattering]	115.1	—FX KABOOM [dokan: explosion]
128.5	—FX GASP [ha: gasping]	115.2	—FX RUMBLE [do do do: rumbling]
130.3	—FX SPLASH [zaa: coffee spilling]	115.3	—FX CLANG CLANG [gararanan: debris falling]
130.5	—FX SIGH [hoo: sighing]	115.4	—FX BAM BAM [za za: impact sound]
131.2	—FX TWITCH [joku: twitching]	115.5	—FX SULK [me: getting sulky]
131.3	—FX PHEW [he: feeling relieved]	115.5	—FX RUMBLE [do do: rumbling]
131.3	—FX CHAK [gash: turning the door knob]	115.6	—FX WHACK [jeho: impact sound]
131.4	—FX MUMBLE [dohuu: dohuu: mumbling]	115.6	—FX BAM [doh: impact sound]
131.5	—FX SHUT [datsu: the door closing]	115.7	—FX WHAM [goku: impact sound]
131.6	—FX SIGH [hoo: sighing]	116.1	—FX PHEW [he: feeling relieved]
131.6	—FX CLANG [gata: table rattling]	116.1	—FX WHOO [hyuuu: sighing]
131.8	—FX CHAK [joku: turning the door knob]	118.1	—FX SIZZLE [shuuuu: zizzing]
132.1	—FX THUMP [dokan: heart beating]	117.1	—FX CLENCH [goku: clenching]

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154.1	—FX BOOM [deee: blast]	132.2	—FX CLANG [gate rattling]
154.2	—FX KABOOM BOOM [deeeon daa: blasts]	132.2	—FX SHUT [para: the door closing]
154.3	—FX ROAR [aaaa: roaring]	132.3	—FX WHEEZE [zaa zee: wheezing]
157.1	—FX ROAR [aaaa: roaring]	132.4	—FX SIGH [haa: sighing]
152.2	—FX SHABBY [beee: worn-out rattling]	133.1	—FX CLANG [graa: the door opening]
162.3	—FX CLUMP CLOMP [gaaa gaao: footsteps]	133.3	—FX GASP [haa: gasping]
162.4	—FX TUTTER [tutu tutu: rattling]	133.5	—FX DASH [daa: clashing]
163.2	—FX COOK [cha cha: cooking]	134.3	—FX MUMBLE [buttu buttu: mumbling]
163.5	—FX CLATTER [chee: a plate clattering]	134.6	—FX RUSTLE [baaa baaa: bird flying]
163.5	—FX CRASH [gaar: a plate crashing]	135.1	—FX BAM [daa: impact sound]
163.5	—FX CLANG [chee: a plate crashing]	135.2	—FX THUMP [go hrrrr: hitting against a bag]
163.7	—FX SIZZLER [kaaaa kaaaa: sizzler]	135.3	—FX CLANG [gate: opening the case]
164.1	—FX CRASH [gaar: a plate crashing]	135.5	—FX CLOMP [kaa: a footstep]
164.5	—FX CLATTER [kaaaa: silverware clattering]	136.1	—FX RUMBLE [go go go go: rumbling]
164.5	—FX MUNCH [moo: mooo: munching]	136.2	—FX AH [aa: exclamation]
165.2	—FX MUNCH [moo: mooo: munching]	136.4	—FX FLASH [kaa: fizzing]
165.4	—FX BULP [pau: drinking]	136.4	—FX AHH [kaaaa: scream]
165.6	—FX CLANG [gate: clear rattling]	136.6	—FX TUSS [pau: tussing]
165.7	—FX MUNCH [moo: mooo: munching]	137.1	—FX SNIFF [ka: sniffing]
166.1	—FX MUNCH [supa supa: moooo: munching]	137.4	—FX CLANG [gate: chair rattling]
166.5	—FX SIGH [haa: sighing]	138.2	—FX BAM [daa: impact sound]
167.2	—FX THUD [kaa: sitting down]	138.4	—FX PANT PANT [ha ha ha: panting]
168.3	—FX BLUNT [supa supa supa: being blunt]	139.2	—FX PHEW [ha: feeling relieved]
168.2	—FX CLENCH [grrr: clenching]	139.2	—FX SIGH [haa: sighing]
170.2	—FX MMWMMW [meee: question]	139.4	—FX BREATHE [suhuh suuhuh: breathing]
170.8	—FX LEAN [pau: leaning forward]	139.5	—FX SNIFF [kaa: sniffing]
170.7	—FX THUMBS-UP [pau: thumbs-up]	140.1	—FX BOAR [podoper: roaring]
171.1	—FX THUMBS-UP [deehhhh: thumbs-up]	140.2	—FX MURMUR [zaaa zzzzz zzzzz: people murmuring]
171.3	—FX BURST [pau: bursting into laughter]	141.3	—FX BULP [pau: bloop]
172.1	—FX CLATTER [kaaaa: plates clattering]	141.3	—FX SIGH [haa: sighing]
172.1	—FX CLANG [gate: chair rattling]	141.4	—FX CLANG [gate: chair rattling]
172.2	—FX CRASH [deehhhh: plates crashing]	142.1	—FX HUH [haa: sniffing]
172.2	—FX AHHH [aaaaa: exclamation]	142.1	—FX PHEW [ha: feeling relieved]
172.3	—FX SHUT [peter: the door closing]	142.4	—FX WHEELS [zaa zee: wheezing]
172.4	—FX GASP [haa: gasping]	142.5	—FX WHEEZE [zaa zee: wheezing]
173.1	—FX KA-CHAK [kaa: the door opening]	142.6	—FX PANT [haa: panting]
173.4	—FX CHAK [cha: closing the door]	143.1	—FX THUMP [deeeon: heart beating]
173.5	—FX SHUT [peter: the door closing]	143.4	—FX BLARE [kaa: blare]
174.1	—FX SURP [zaa zaazza zaazza: slurping]	143.5	—FX PANIC [zaaa zaazza: feeling dismay]
174.1	—FX BLOW [huh: blowing]	146.2	—FX SNIFF [kaa: sniffing]
174.2	—FX MUNCH [gate: gate: moooo: munching]	147.5	—FX RING RING [paaaaaaa: a cell phone ringing]
134.3	—FX SLURP [zaa zaazza: slurping]	148.1	—FX BULP [pau: bloop]
174.3	—FX MUNCH [gate: gate: moooo: munching]	148.2	—FX SQUEAK [kaa: squeaking]
174.3	—FX MUNCH [gate: gate: moooo: munching]	148.3	—FX NAB NAB [gaaa-gaaa: squeaking]
175.1	—FX BURP [kaaaa: burping]	148.6	—FX SNIFF [kaa: sniffing]
175.1	—FX WHEEZE [zaa zee: wheezing]	149.5	—FX HAH HAH HAH [haaaaa: laughing]
175.3	—FX WHEEZE [zaa zee: wheezing]	149.6	—FX SNAP [pau: phone turned off]
175.3	—FX PHEW [pau: sighing]	149.7	—FX OODT [haaa: dead phone line]
175.2	—FX SIGH [haa: sighing]	150.3	—FX MMW [meee: groaning]
175.3	—FX BURP [kaaaa: burping]	150.4	—FX BAM [baaa: the door opening]
175.4	—FX BURP [kaaaa: burping]	151.1	—FX WHIRR [rrrrrr: whirring]
175.5	—FX BURP [kaaaa: burping]	151.2	—FX KABOOM BOOM [deeeon daa: blasts]
175.6	—FX SIGH [haa: sighing]	152.1	—FX ROAR [aaaa: roaring]
176.1	—FX EWIP [gate: getting up]	153.1	—FX ROAR [aaaa: roaring]
176.3	—FX HMPH [kaa: sputtering]	153.3	—FX WHIRR [rrrrrr: whirring]
177.2	—FX SQUEAK [kaa: kic: squeaking]	153.4	—FX KABOOM [deee: blast]
177.4	—FX GRRRRR [paaaaaaa: growling]	153.5	—FX BOOM [deee: blast]
178.1	—FX TWICH [kaa ka aha: being frustrated]	153.6	—FX BOOM KABOOM [daa daaa: blasts]
178.1	—FX TAP TAP [kaa ka: tapping]		

9.2. In the original Japanese, Shioji pondered the situation as being *kaesaku han-igei*, which means "beyond the bounds (of observation)." To this was added (as a subtitle in katakana) the English loan-word *okarato*, "scout."

12.1. Excel's remark about forgetting *kanji* is not uncommon even among native users of Japanese; it used to be you were expected to know 1,845 of them before you entered high school in 2010 that get upped to 2,136 in reality, just because you manage to remember them long enough to pass a test doesn't mean they're all going to stick around in your head. Come to think of it, the *kan* that begins *kaesaku* in 9.2 is eighteen strokes—at that point you're in the top 5% as far as complicatedness goes among the standard characters.

12.2. In Excel's case, in "Revolusion," of course, I suddenly had a glimpse of an American version of *Excel Saga* set in Seattle (I've come to the conclusion it's the best U.S. stand-in for Fukuoka, that is, a major city, oriented toward Asian business and exports, but far away from traditional U.S. power and culture centers, just as Fukuoka is far away from the Kanto and Kansai regions of Japan), based around a small group of attractive young women who are fanatical followers of Ron Paul (I consider that Ayn Rand once said her favorite TV show was *Charlie's Angels*. I'm not saying this to express any political opinions, but the simple hope that Ron Paul supporters will immediately descend en masse upon the bookstores to read this and respond. I know this will involve each one purchasing a copy of vol. 24, because they are respectful of private property.

13.4. This joke (although this story originally ran in the October 2009 issue of *Young King Owl*) seems very relevant now after Fukushima, after which every nuclear plant in Japan was shut down.

15.4. In the original Japanese, she called Shioji *megane*, "glasses," evidently being disinclined to remember his name.

17.2. Peter Weir's acclaimed 1986 film *The Truman Show*, starring Jim Carrey as a man who gradually becomes aware that his entire life has been a reality television show, has in the years since evidently influenced an actual delusional state where people believe likewise, described as "Truman Syndrome" in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*. The editor cannot help but feel this is a pretty egotistical illness to suffer from. Doesn't anyone think they're Hephaestus anymore? I mean, that's pretty egotistical, too, but presumably you at least feel obliged to go out and do something constructive, like conquer Europe, instead of just pandering for ratings.

19.4. Please see *Debliefe* in vol. 5, note for 173.4, although I'll bet I dedicated far less as you not only reenacted the information, but also knows that, technically, it was "173-4," before the great dash-dot switch of vol. 15, which has never been satisfactorily explained. Yes, by now *Debliefe* even has notes about the reunions of *Debliefe* itself.

178.4	—FX SPLASH [pr. h-p]
179.1	—FX TWITCH TWICH [maka maka, being irritated]
180.1	—FX MUMBLE [datsu, mumbling]
180.2	—FX THUMP [dokon, heart beating]
180.3	—FX BAM [bien bina; threshing about]
180.3	—FX THUMP [dokon, heart beating]
180.4	—FX CLENCH [jiguri; clutching snout]
183.1	—FX CLOWP [ku, a footprint]
183.3	—FX CHAK [juchuu; the door opening]
183.4	—FX CLOWP CLOWP [ku ku ku; footsteps]
184.1	—FX HAGGARD [befu; being haggard]
184.1	—FX HUWUHU [futu-futu; feeling throwing up]
185.1	—FX TA-DA [don; ta-da]
185.1	—FX BUZZ [bun bun; buzzing]
185.5	—FX URP [u; gulping]
188.7	—FX CHOKE [gare; choking]
189.5	—FX HMPH [ku; humphing]
190.2	—FX HMMH? [juuu; question]
190.2	—FX BUZZ [muan muan; cell phone vibrating]
190.3	—FX STRETCH [yuuu; stretching]
190.3	—FX BUZZ [muan muan; cell phone vibrating]
190.4	—FX FLASH [pika; flash]
190.5	—FX CRUSH [puchi; being crushed]

It seems unlikely that you would be reading this and not know about:

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...but stranger things have happened, among them being the aforementioned "this," i.e., *Excel Saga* vol. 24, which you are hopefully holding in your hands in November of 2012, rather than 2013 as I thought would be the case (and as was mentioned at the end of last volume's *Debliefe*). I never can quite get used to this freaky "message to the future" thing that publishing entails. Last volumes, I dared the Mayans to do their worst, and then felt a bit guilty about it, being well aware this whole 2012 prophecy thing is pop folklore not supported by actual scholars of Mayan culture. And even if the Mayans did think the world was going to end on December 21, 2012, where exactly did we get into the habit of using the Mayan calendar as our day planner? It seems a little insincere to start paying attention to the Long Count only when it promises us a disaster revo. For example, today (as I write this), July 8, 2012, was 12.19.19.14 to the Mayans. No doubt, according to the Mayan religion, we should all be doing something, or not doing something, on that date too, but does anyone know what, exactly? Ernest Borgnine died today; like the great Mayan king Itz'la Balam Ahau (Shield Jaguar Lord), he lived to be 95. Was he his reincarnation? Did you know Mischa La Gondola (2000: *War in the Pocket*) was based on him? Ernest Borgnine, I mean, not Shield Jaguar Lord. Basing him on Shield Jaguar Lord would have just been too hardcore.

oubliette

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had updated RX-78 7th Gundam (also known simply as the RX-78-7). The translator notes the nickname "White Devil" was applied to the Gundam by Zeon forces due to its paint job, and not, as the editor had hoped (being an *Gundam* expert, despite that earlier remark about *War in the Pocket*), because it had been crafted by a big-headed scientist named Yecub. The Gundam's strength, by the way, is supposed to come in part from it being armored with lunar titanium alloy (see note for 177.2 below).

99.3. Miseki uses the English word *mechanical*, just as Shioji does in 82.2 when he instructs Egela to try and see if she can operate ACROSS's maintenance facility. Even though there are several native Japanese words that can be translated as "maintenance," this is another example where using the English one has become common among Japanese speakers.

71.4. Excel was in fact counting sheep (Aisbyū) in the original, in case you were wondering, although Fukakusa's humid climate is not ideally suited for sheep raising; in Japan, you are most likely to find them on the northernmost island of Hokkaido.

95.5. Hwata chooses this moment to bring up the time in vol. 11 when Watanabe pawned all the appliances in the employee dormitory to help Hyatt repay her "coworker" debt (this being Egela, who had had committed the drunken good deed of saving a restaurant from certain closure by leaving a ten million yen tip—the entire contents of the account Lord II Palazzo had set up for them). All Watanabe saw, of course, was a fevered vision of "Miss Ayasugi" turning to prostitution unless he stepped in. This was also an early example of Dr. Kabepu showing sympathy for Watanabe's unrequited love, an attitude he has maintained even though he has since become aware that "Miss Ayasugi" works for II Palazzo (see p. 156 and note for 159.2, below).

99.3. Miseki again uses an English term, *okawatiriku*; "occultic" (see note for 6.2, above, although in her case she says it just by itself, without a corresponding Japanese term).

99.5. I apologize if I've asked this before, but what's up with that gesture of adjusting your glasses by pushing up on its bridge with your fingertips, usually to make a point? I've never seen anyone do it in real life; only in anime and manga.

104.1. Excel, of course, inverting Kamien's immortal lines from *Tensei Toppa Gurren Lagann*.

105.5. Egela, still unable to remember Shioji's name (or even his title), is now addressing him as if she were Nabito and he was foreman, the eponymous robot cat who tested poorly in our focus groups.

25.1: In the original version, the term Egela uses for "danger" is the English word "pinch" (pinch)—"Seppai ga pinchi nae desu!"—suggesting that the English phrase "to be in a pinch" became adopted into Japanese at some point. This is also, of course, the same "pinch" as "Pinch-chea." Egela's alter-ego in the recent four-panel strip at the end of the volume, where H uses another meaning the word has in English—that of a little, annoying pain.

30.2: The title of Mission 2 is a play on "The North Wind and the Sun," one of the ancient Greek Aesop's Fables, which Miwa cites at the end of the chapter. The fable says that one day the North Wind and the Sun decide to compete to see which is the stronger; by each attempting to make a passing stranger take off his cloak. The harder the North Wind blows, the tighter the stranger wraps his cloak around himself, but the Sun, by shining down its warmth, makes the stranger remove it. Aesop's Fables are relatively well known in Japan, having been introduced by Portuguese missionaries in the late 16th century. They survived the general suppression of outside culture during the long period of isolation under the Tokugawa era, having become accepted as a part of Japanese folklore.

37.5: H evidently takes close exposure to the presence of II Palazzo to make Excel appear mad, as if it were a secret color only brought out by light beyond the normal spectrum.

45.3: The translator notes this is a reference to popular Japanese TV suspense dramas whose titles reflect the day of the week on which they air, such as *Kayo Suspense Gekijo* (Tuesday Suspense Theater) or *Doyo Wado Gekijo* (Saturday Wide Theater). In these dramas, it is typical for a woman to be murdered at a hot spring.

46.3: In the original Japanese, the phrase Hyatt and Egela say is *hite iru tte subarashii*, an old expression that sounds very much like the sort of thing you'd say in a pre-Evangelion pop song, like Hikaru Nishida would.

47.4: For some reason, Excel reminds me a little of Sir Intega Hellsing here.

50.1: The sign says *Shukashoku-an*, "Hermitage (of) Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter";—or, since this is a fancy restaurant, "The Four Seasons" might be the most appropriate rendering. The translator notes that Japanese politicians are traditionally thought to receive their bribes across the table in the private rooms of such establishments. The editor has noticed that Rikido Sensei is very good at conveying corruption in the human face; he's the Thomas Nast of manga.

51.6: They are likely playing *Mobile Suit Gundam: BattleField Record U.C. 0057* on the PS3, which had just come out at the time of this story, and which featured a redesigned

tinium/Parents I'm blamin' 'em"—Ice-T, "Home Invasion") isn't because it is the strongest metal, but because it has the highest strength-to-weight ratio of any metal—it is also highly resistant to corrosion. None of these facts, of course, will do poor Egulu any good.

100.5: This is, of course, *Excel Saga* (and *Healing and Drifters*)'s great editor, Yoshiyuki Fedetani.

Well, as an offering to the future, let's close out for now on two pieces of fan art from the faithful Nicki! "Both drawings were made digitally using OpenCanvas," he writes. "One, by me, is of Ropponimatsu II, sitting on top of Sumiyoshi, who's managing his, uh...collection, I guess? The other was a collaboration project using OpenCanvas's networking feature, drawn together with my British friend Ryan Rouse, of a Kabapu imagining himself as a Frenchman, performing casual parkour jumps across skyscrapers to rid Napoleon on his rocket-boosted horse-plane, all while carrying his omelet with cheese with him. All also while his employees, apparently able to see his thoughts, share their respective reactions."

Speak of Napoleon, and he appears, it seems! And his rocket-boosted horse-plane, which doesn't surprise me a bit, as the *Speed Racer* episode that scared the crap out of me as a kid was the two-part "Race For Revenge," featuring a remote-controlled car named Mélange, supposedly after one of Napoleon's horses (the one in *Napoleon Crossing the Alps* by David)—it was only years later I found out "Mélange" was a mistransliteration into English of *Marengo*, which was the actual name of the horse; trying to get words from a third language correct when you're translating them from Japanese into English can be particularly tricky). Anyway, the thing about Mélange was, it had the number 3 on its hood, but this was on a hatch that flipped over to reveal a blinking "X" when it was time to kill you.

By which of course, I mean, see you again in vol. 25! Ah the hubris of mangas!

—CGH

111.1. *Kage* means "mustache" (or "beard") in Japanese; it is evidently a version of the mascot Kabapu was modeling earlier, sized to dangle from your cell phone. There's a song by Pretty, "Mustache in Your Face" that I really think could describe Watanebe's life working under the doctor.

132.3: See note for 45.3—only now the blood-filled toilet serves as the stand-in for the hot springs.

147.1: I'm a little disappointed that Matsuya didn't also get to be a little imaginary bird hectoring Watanebe, but I suppose she'd prefer not to become too involved in his delusions.

148.4: This is the same "number one" that Sakura calls Li at the end of *Cardcaptor Sakura*, which the editor also, er, edits. I was trying to think of exactly how to phrase this in a parental advisory. *This volume contains intense scenes of girls giving teddy bears to boys.*

150.2: In the original Japanese, Kabapu says *echiba niw otsu koto mo nakanou*, expressing the same idea as the English "kick a man when he's down," although it's more commonly alluded to just as *inzu ni echiba niw otsu*, "hit a dog that fell in the water."

153.1: We haven't seen Kabapu's outdoor training facility in some time (it first appeared in vol. 2).

167.2: The translator notes that in the original Japanese, Iwata uses a made-up word, *kyozakusei*, instead of *azukkusu*, which indicates belonging. *Kyo* means "kage" or "giant," and this implies that he is talking about Umi's breasts.

167.4: In the original Japanese, "SF" was subtitled *suoi/ashigi*, meaning very strange or mysterious.

168.6: Umi did mention that her friends from her doujishi circle (as seen in vol. 18) were her seniors in school.

168.1 Umi seems to be the youngest among the main characters in *Excel Saga* (she was described as 18 when first introduced in vol. 12, meaning she must be at least 18 now, as Terrie/Excel was said to have been missing for a year). Matsuya, Iwata, Watanebe and Semiyoshi went to work for the city as college graduates, so they must be around their mid-20s by now. It's kind of refreshing to have a manga where all of the characters have moved beyond junior high and high school. ^_~

177.2: When people speak of how "hard" a substance is (uh-huh-huh-huh...uh-huh-huh-huh) they are generally referring to its resistance to changing shape under force. In this regard, common glass is harder than titanium. The reason titanium became a byword for strength ("Hard as

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